

Potential Multi-State Priorities

NAASF Forest Resource Planning Committee Brainstorming Session-May, 2009

The 2008 Farm Bill (PL 110-246) requires State Assessments to include “any multi-state areas that are a regional priority.” Furthermore, one of the desired outcomes of the S&PF Redesign approach is to identify the highest priority landscapes in states and regions and develop focused strategies for addressing the forest resource challenges on those landscapes.

In 2008, the NAASF Forest Resource Planning Committee (FRPC), with concurrence by NAASF, requested that the Northeastern Area S&PF help facilitate the identification of multi-state priority areas. The following is a list of potential multi-state priority areas and issues identified in a break-out session of state forest planners and GIS professionals at the FRPC meeting on May 13, 2009. This session was facilitated by NA staff with participation by 18 states. The FRPC group was divided into three regions to facilitate the discussion: Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Mid-West. Please see the corresponding maps (in the attached powerpoint) for the location of the numbered areas in each region. Although the emphasis was on outlining potential priority landscape areas, the FRPC participants also discussed potential multi-state issues. Those are listed in Section B. below.

Since there are potential multi-state priority areas that cross these regions and cross 20-state NAASF region, it is envisioned that as this list is refined and prioritized, it will be presented in one table with one corresponding map.

A. Potential Multi-State Priority Areas

Northeast—Potential Multi-state Priority Areas

# on Map	Existing or Proposed Area	Name	State(s)	Issue or Description
1.	Existing	Northern Forest Lands	Northern ME, Coos county NH, Adirondack/Tug hill region NY, northeast VT	Large contiguous forest lands, major recreational and economic resource for New York and New England. Subject of large study in 1990s and the same issues/values remain.
2.	Existing	Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership	NH, MA	Last area of large forest blocks, important wildlife habitat, water quality & recreational linkages. Q2C partnership working on protection of the area. Includes Society for the Protection of NH Forests and Mount Grace Conservation Land Trust (and others). Shovel-ready.
3.	Existing	Pawgatuck Borderlands	CT, RI	Known as the “last green valley”. Current partnership with TNC as a priority watershed protection area. Shovel-ready.
4.	Existing	Blackstone Valley	MA, RI	Watershed protection area. Educational corridor – connecting people with resources, heritage trail.

5.	Existing	Mass Conn Sustainable Forest Partnership, Quinnebaug	MA, CT	Watershed quality— water health & fisheries habitat. Historic value; mill restoration. Shovel-ready.
6.	Proposed	Highlands Community Initiative	MA, CT, NY, NJ, and PA	Existing Federal Highlands region does not include MA.
7.	Existing	CT-NY-NJ-PA Highlands	CT, NY, NJ, PA	Watershed protection, biodiversity, contiguous forests, recreation and cultural resources.
8.	Proposed	Lake Champlain Basin	VT, NY	Water quality, loss of forest land, agricultural run-off.
9.	Proposed	Connecticut River Watershed	NH, VT, MA, CT	Water quality, population growth and development, conversion of forest land, Conte National Wildlife Refuge, biodiversity protection.
10.	Existing	Ossipee Pine Barrens	NH, ME	Globally rare ecosystem, important TNC protection area, fire dependent ecosystem. Shovel-ready.
11.	Proposed	Interstate Highway Corridors	All States with interstate highways	Vectors for movement of invasive species & development, lack of canopy cover. E.g., along I-95
12.	Proposed	Piscataqua Watershed	NH, MA	Water quality, fragmentation, loss of forest land.
13.	Existing	North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership	MA?	Partner in the Q2C Partnership.
14.	Existing	Upper Nashua River Watershed	MA, NH	MA-NH Nashua River Watershed Association, USEPA “Watershed Initiative Project. Part of NWRA “2020 Vision”
15.*	Proposed	No name	Multi-state	New England Town Forests
16.	Existing	Berkshire Taconic Landscape	NY, MA	Same as Q2C – urbanization pressure, large forest block, recognized Audubon area.
18.	Proposed	Tree Canopy Enhancement Corridor	NJ	I-95 corridor effort to increase canopy cover. This includes the NJ Turnpike—major expansion between exits 6 and 8a. Shovel-ready.
20.	Proposed	Greater NYC Area	NY, NJ, CT	Urban Tree Canopy. Shovel-ready.
21.	Proposed	Merrimack River Corridor	NH, MA	Development pressure/urbanization effort.

* = not identified on the map

Mid-Atlantic—Potential Multi-state Priority Areas

# on Map	Existing or Proposed	Name	State(s)	Issue or Description
1.	Existing	Highlands	PA, NY, NJ (also goes with #7 in Northeast)	Watershed protection, biodiversity, contiguous forests, recreation and cultural resources
2.	Existing	Chesapeake Bay	DE, MD, NY, PA, VA, WV, DC	Water quality, invasive species
3.	Proposed	No name	NJ, DE	DelMarVa peninsula, NJ Southern Pine Beetle – NJ Pitch Pine, Southern pine beetle is bad; Lobby pine in DE not as bad. <i>Need to check with Glenn (aka Dode) Gladders of DE if this is accurate.</i>
4.	Proposed	No name	NJ, NY, PA, WV	Timber markets in Southern NJ (DelMarVa); Poconos/NY/NJ; Northern PA, Eastern, Southwest WV – Entrepreneur grants for wood utilization/Utilization Program- No market for some states. NJ puts out a timber sale and gets no bids or low bids. Seed money to new wood industry/not try to save old mills (<i>need to verify if this is true—not saving mills</i>). Logger stimulus/Harvest Infrastructure – stimulate new loggers or more efficient logging. Sustainable wood source? NJ/PA/DE has sales simultaneously – coordinate state sales with industry.
5.	Proposed	No name	Upper OH, PA, WV	Water quality, forestry, urban forestry
6.	Proposed	No name	PA, NY, NJ, WV, VA, MD	Wildland urban interface fire issues/urban expansion in the Poconos/NY metro area; more of a local issue in southern NJ.
6a.	Proposed	No name	PA, NY, NJ, WV, VA, western MD	Next generation/ wildland urban interface in central PA/DC metro expansion.
7.	Proposed	No name	OH, WV, PA, MD	EAB quarantine/detection
8.	Proposed	Reforestation of abandoned mine lands	PA, OH, WV, MD, VA, KY	Water quality, habitat. Not on the map.
9.	Proposed	No name	NY, PA, OH, WV, VA	Oil and gas (Marcellus Shale), 4 acres per well, fragmentation
9b.	Proposed	No name	NJ, others?	Bird migration along NJ's coastal state forests, Appalachian Ridge Forest connectivity
13.	Proposed	No name	OH, MI, IN	Lake Erie water quality issues (both urban and rural)

14.	Proposed	No name	PA, Eastern OH, Western MD, Eastern WV, NJ?	Hemlock woody adelgid, water quality issues
16.	Proposed	No name	DE, NY, NJ (throughout Pinelands), MD, VA?	Coastal Atlantic White Cedar Decline & Restoration
17.	Proposed	No name	OH, IN, KY? Cincinnati metro area	Parcelization and urban forest management

Midwest—Potential Multi-State Priority Areas

# on Map	Existing or Proposed	Name	State(s)	Issue or Description
1.	Existing	Upper Mississippi Watershed	MN, WI, IA, IL, MO, OH, PA, NY.	Water pollution, loss of migratory bird habitat, forest loss and fragmentation
2.	Existing	Great Lakes	MN, WI, MI, IN, NY, OH, Ontario.	Water pollution, loss of migratory bird habitat, forest loss and fragmentation, climate change
3.	Existing	Ohio River Corridor	MO, IL, IN, OH, WV, KY? Why?	?
4.	Proposed	St. Louis Metro Urban Area	MO, IL, KY.	Emphasis on urban areas that transcends state lines
5.	Proposed	Kansas City Urban Area	KS, MO	?
6.	Proposed	Chicago/ Gary, IL – Chicago Wilderness	IL, WI, IN, MI	?
7.	Existing	Driftless Area (unglaciated area)	WI, MN, IL, IA	?
8.	Existing	Lower Mississippi Bottomland area	MO, KY, TN?	Loss of bottomland hardwood forests, forest fragmentation
9.*	Existing	Fire Compact – Great Lakes	MI, WI, MN, Ontario (Canada)	Fire
10.*	Existing	Fire Compact – Big Rivers	IA, IL, IN MO	Fire
11.	Proposed	Toledo Urban Area	MI, OH	?
12.*	Existing	North Country Trail	MI, WI, MN	?
13.	Existing	Ozark Highlands restoration	MO, AR	Shortleaf pine woodland restoration

14.	Proposed	Lake Superior tributaries	MI, WI, MN	?
15.	Proposed	Wabash River valley	IN, IL	?
16.	Proposed	Missouri River corridor	IA, NE, others?	?
17.*	Proposed	Karst areas	IL, IN, MO, KY	Water quality
18.	Proposed	Quad cities – Molene, Davenport, Rock Island, Bettendorf	IA, IL	?
19.*	Proposed	No name	MO, AR, TN, KY	Central Hardwood joint venture
20.	Proposed	Oak Region	WI, MN, others?	Oak regeneration, impacts from deer browse, turkey
21.*	Proposed	No name	WI, MI, MN	Karner Blue Butterfly
22.*	Proposed	No name	MI	Kirtland's Warbler
23.	Proposed	Omaha/Council Bluffs Urban area	IA, NE	?
24.*	Proposed	Hardwood Region	MI, IN, IL, PA	Indiana Bat
25.*	Proposed	Circle Tours around the Great Lakes	MN, WI, MI, others?	Offering recreational opportunities along the shores of the Great Lakes and encouraging tourism

* = Not identified on the map

B. Potential Multi-State Priority Issues

- Invasive species (insects and plants), e.g., spread of Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Longhorn Beetle; work with Cooperative Weed Management Areas for addressing invasive plants.
- Climate change
- Forest fragmentation and parcelization
- Intergenerational transfer of forest land
- Absentee landowners—reaching landowners with 2nd residences in forested areas; issues around transfer of invasive pests and communicating with these landowners about other forest health and management issues.
- Industry ownership change – REITS / TIMOs
- Education/public awareness
- Bio-energy sourcing, wood product flow, timbershed. E.g., biofuels in Sault Ste. Marie bio-energy area
- ATV/off-road vehicle trails—erosion control, invasive species, and recreation management. Look at models like Hatfield McCoy trail (AML ATV Park)
- Fire

- Nursery stock availability for reforestation—genetically compatible seedlings for replanting; give state seed stock to states with active nurseries to grow for replanting
- Air quality concerns—most wood boilers do not meet EPA's air quality standards
- Forest Industry and markets – capturing drain when moved out of state (jobs, product)
- Deer browse – tree species displacement
- Mineral extraction and reclamation – water tailings issues (at least MN & MI)